

Clarification of the Community Involvement "mechanism"

Kay Morrison to: Jae.P DOUGLAS, Karen BISHOP, Scott Downey, Sheila Fleming, Elizabeth Allen, Richard Kauffman, Linda Liu

08/16/2011 03:31 PM

Cc: Wenona Wilson

Dear colleagues, please forgive me for not being clear yesterday on the Triangle Lake call. I would have liked to confer with Karen a bit more before speaking on the phone, but I'd like to clarify now.

It's my understanding that ODH would like to provide the Triangle Lake / Hwy 36 community with an avenue for meaningful participation, but at this stage in the study isn't ready for a community advisory group. Instead, ODH would benefit from the local residents' knowledge as the study goes forward.

I said I haven't found a "mechanism" to lead a community group for ODH's current needs - if I help set up a CAG (community advisory group) or some other sort of stakeholder group there would need to be some point where the group's input will have some influence in the process. I really believe that convening a community group at this point would imply that we wanted advice from them, even if we're very clear that we're (at least for now) primarily interested in their "eyes on the ground" knowledge.

If EPA were, on the other hand, in the process of taking input (on some part of the study that we lead) from a formal community group it might be appropriate to open the conversation to input of all sorts, including for ODH's ongoing work. The community is clearly interested in playing an advisory role and this is a "mechanism" I could see to permitting them that opportunity. This would only be worthwhile to the community if there is a real opening for their combined voices to make a difference in our processes.

There are, however, any number of ways for ODH to reach out to the community for the sort of useful input that Karen and I discussed last week. Asking for their valuable input is a form of engagement that, while not a formal advisory group or a formal group of some other sort, would still ensure that the community has an opportunity to participate. Here are a few things that might engage the community, some of which I'd be willing and eager to help with:

Technical discussions - specialists are available at various venues to give brief presentations and answer questions about specific issues, such as the roles of EPA and the state agencies in pesticide regulation, or what the results of the biological testing will *and* will not tell us. We can reach out to the community to learn what topics they'd like to learn about and a series could be developed.

Small group meetings - ask groups to invite us to speak at some existing meetings, such as the PTA, school or health care facilities, church groups, OTA, etc.

Send out postcards to the homes in the study area asking for their thoughts or feedback on specific topics - include the opportunity to sign up for the email list, provide the web address and contact information.

A weekly email, every Friday, with an update ("still refining the study" "met with ATSDR to finalize plans" "called 50 households, got 32 responses" "samples en route to lab" etc.).

Publish a newsletter. Ask for contributions from Governor, agency leaders, specialists. Include fact-sheet type information. Always remind recipients to send comments and questions.

Set up a Facebook page - you'll need a clever intern to monitor and respond.

Engage the press, get ahead of the story.

I hope this helps make some sense of my response yesterday. Please let me know if I'm still missing the mark or if there are other avenues worth exploring.

Finally, I'm not sure who to send this to in Oregon so I've only added Jae and Karen, please feel free to forward if you think the other folks on the phone would be interested.
k

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Fw: ODA Summary of Hwy 36 pesticides Notified - Hwy 36 Exposure Investigation Area

Elizabeth Allen to: Scott Downey

08/16/2011 03:34 PM

History: This message has been replied to and forwarded.

I think we can safely focus our attention away from the anomaly of "Dried Bovine/Porcine Blood" in 2007.

The following information was put together by Mike Odenthal, ODA Pesticides Division, to identify target active ingredients for food or vegetation Samples. This list identifies what the intended active ingredients were to be used in the Hwy 36 area. There has been very little variation of active ingredients over the years.

This information will be provided and further discussed in the next Protocol / Technical group meeting.

Dale L. Mitchell

Oregon department of Agriculture

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Begin forwarded message:

[attachment "Hwy 36 Actives List.docx" deleted by Scott Downey/R10/USEPA/US]